



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**KENYA**

# GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



USAID's gender-based violence programs are raising awareness on the effects of sexual violence against women, children and school girls in the slum areas in Kenya. Slum areas are the most affected by gender based violence.

|| Number of sexual offenses also referred to as offenses against morality

48% Number of domestic abuse accounts of all violations.

2006 The year when the Sexual Offences Act was enacted to comprehensively address the issue of sexual violence in Kenya

## Background

The United States Agency for International Development is funding programs in Kenya to help raise awareness about gender based violence in different regions around Kenya. The Center for Rights Education and Awareness, the Community Outreach Gender-Based Violence Project and Peace Initiative Kenya work with the government, civil society, religious leaders and community members to coordinate expertise, resources, and efforts to address gender based violence. They are improving access to medical, psychological, legal services and economic support services for victims of gender-based violence and their dependents.

## Why does USAID invest in programs that address Gender Based Violence?

USAID's global mandate in development and humanitarian assistance places the Agency in a strong position to effectively address this complex, multifaceted issue. USAID programs support prevention and response to gender based violence by:

- Addressing the root causes of violence
- Improving prevention and protection services
- Responding to the health and economic needs of those affected by gender based violence
- Supporting legislation and its enforcement against gender based violence

The U.S. Government recognizes that the equal participation of women in the political, economic and social spheres of society is a key ingredient for democratic development. At the same time, unless women fully enjoy their human rights, to which freedom from violence is inextricably bound, then progress toward development will continue to fall short.

USAID is committed to preventing gender-based violence by supporting legislation against it and by leading several activities.

## What do gender-based violence programs do in Kenya?

Gender-based violence programs work toward increasing access to justice and integrated support services increasing overall public awareness about gender based violence.

They also empower community members and leaders to recognize and prevent gender-based violence, treat victims, and educate health care practitioners and paralegals about prevention and treatment of gender-based violence.

## How are the programs are making a difference?

- As a result of public outreach events organized around International Human Rights Day and International Women's Day 2012, approximately 1,100 people were provided with information on gender based violence and related laws.
- Cooperation has improved among community based organizations, governments, and religious leaders dealing with Gender Based Violence in Kibera as a result of working on the "one stop shop" platform together.



Gender-based violence affects women, children and men in Kenya.

- In the Kibera project, 36 gender-based violence cases have been filed in court and are awaiting judgment. Over 40 mediations have been conducted to resolve conflicts between couples.
- Through the Kasarani community outreach gender-based violence project, 340 primary and secondary school students have been informed about gender based violence prevention and treatment.
- 200 parents are aware of symptoms of emotional abuse and how to protect children against sexual abuse.
- 40 teachers in Kasarani District have been trained and sensitized on gender based violence.
- 54 health workers have been equipped with basic knowledge and skills on preservation of evidence, documentation and data collection for survivors of rape.
- 7 churches and crusade forums have been visited, reaching over 6,930 people with awareness raising on gender based violence.
- 1,000 girl and boy scouts participated in training activities on gender based violence.
- 9 youth have been trained as paralegals to raise awareness on gender based violence in their communities.

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#### What are the key challenges that gender-based violence programs face?

Many victims of gender-based violence are reluctant to bring their cases to court. The Center for Rights Education and Awareness is working with Kenya's National Council for Administration of Justice to explore ways of enhancing service delivery within the judiciary to better respond to the needs of its clients.

Some community members in Kasarani are hesitant to report incidences of gender-based violence to police due to lack of trust in law enforcement personnel.

Some community leaders and security personnel are reluctant to allow their communities to be sensitized on gender based violence.

Leaders of some faith-based organizations do not wish to participate in gender based violence trainings.

Police who have received training on gender based violence are often transferred from one station to another, making implementation of responses to gender based violence difficult to sustain at particular posts.